

TOMAS WOLFE

SOUND MASTER

By Annette Verde



Having just been voted “One of Seven of the Best Live Sound Engineers in Los Angeles” — Tomas Wolfe knows exactly what it takes to make a live performance rock the rafters. From LA’s Staples Center, Viper Room, Club Nokia, Soho House and The El Rey, to the biggest and most outrageous live band festival on planet earth — Coachella — and just about any venue you can name in about any state you can think of... Wolfe (31) a Los Angeles native) has made a name for himself spinning music because he has a great ear for turning out great sound.

Recently, I caught up with Wolfe who was off tour and back in town for a flash of Christmas time with his family and friends. Tall, dark and adorably handsome, I had a few questions burning on my mind.

Everybody thinks working and traveling with a band must be so exciting BUT is it really? What's life like on the road? It's not as glamorous as people think. It takes a certain type of person to endure road life. But for me it's the greatest job I have ever had, and I love it. You work all the time with rarely a day off. If you do get a day off, you are usually traveling to the next city. It's great to travel, but I'm in a town for only a day, and that time is usually spent working at the venue. You have to deal with a lot of different personalities, and living in close quarters 24/7 takes adjustments on everyone's part. It not for everybody that's for sure.

What you do is so specialized. Tell us what attracted you to Front of House Engineering, and what are the specifics of what you do? What attracted me to

Front of House Engineering was I originally went to school to get my degree as a Recording Engineer. Soon after, I got offered a gig running live sound for a local band here in L.A., and I fell in love with the spontaneity of live mixing. I never looked back. The specifics of my job is to capture sound from instruments, then mix them together for a bitchin' show.

What do you love most about your job? Having a platform where I can be creative and technical at the same time. Even better... look into the audience and see everybody enjoying the show.

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WHAT does it take to be with the band? Let's rephrase that. What does it take to be with a GREAT band? Well, it takes a band with talent, guts, tons of personality, audience appeal AND an amazing song or two or ten in their back pocket. But no man, OR band is an island. So, there is also a leg-long list of a behind-the-scenes crew that music-makers can't live without. PR, management, stage hands, and the mighty — Front of House Engineer. Don't know what that is? Well, let's say the talent, or lack of an Front of House Engineer makes the difference between an excruciatingly painful, pretty good, or rockin' outrageous live or recorded sound performance.

Without question the most important element of any band or performer is the music they produce. An Front of House Engineer has a multi-level job that encompasses the recording, manipulation, mixing and reproduction of sound. These days Front of House Engineers get creative with a plethora of high-tech equipment and programs that create groundbreaking sounds for music, film, radio, television and computer games. Sure, there are film and sound schools that train people interested in becoming Audio Engineers. But when it comes right down to it — it's the inborn “ear for sound” of a person that determines how good of an Audio Engineer he/she will be. The creativity, knowledge and experience of a seasoned audio engineer knows no bounds.